



Bob Longwell

February 1, 1936 - February 7, 2023

Chester Robert "Bob" Longwell, 87, of Cape Girardeau, Missouri passed away Tuesday, February 7, 2023 at Missouri Veteran's Home.

He was born February 1, 1936 in Morgantown, WV, the son of John H. Longwell and Lorna Montgomery Longwell. His childhood was in Fargo, North Dakota, and his family moved from there to Columbia, Missouri, where he graduated from University High School in 1953. He was in the school orchestra, on the track team, basketball team, and was delegate to Boys State. Bob was active in Boy Scouts and was elected to Order of the Arrow, serving two summers while in college, as counselor at Boy Scout Campe, Lake of the Ozarks.

As a student at University of Missouri, Bob belonged to Alpha Tau Omega Fraternity and University Singers, graduating in 1958, with a B.S. in chemistry. In graduate school, he worked as a laboratory assistant.

He was a member and usher of Missouri Methodist Church in Columbia. On December 28, 1957, Bob married the love of his life Barbara Lee Stenzel in Cairo, Illinois.

He served in the Missouri National Guard, 1954 to 1962, being honorably discharged as sergeant. His last year in the Guard was an eleven month tour

of active duty at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, at the time of the Berlin Wall Crisis. The work his unit did was teaching troops being sent to Viet Nam how to use the WWII and Korean War radio equipment that they would be using in Viet Nam. He was awarded the National Emergency Service Ribbon of Missouri in 1962.

From 1959 to 1964, Bob worked in methods development at Ralston Purina in St. Louis, where their sons were born. From 1964 to 1968, he was a pesticide residue chemist with the University of Nevada, Reno, where he also completed requirements for his M.S. in biochemistry. The family had joined St. Barnabas Episcopal Church in St. Louis and they were active Episcopalians wherever they lived. The next four years, he was with the Indiana State Chemist Laboratory, Lafayette, Indiana, also doing postgraduate work at Purdue.

After a year in Cairo with the family auto parts business and farm, he moved his family to Cape Girardeau in 1973. Here, Bob held the position of criminalist, specializing in forensic serology in the Southeast Missouri Regional Crime Laboratory on the University campus. His duties included testifying on his analyses in the courts of the 23 counties the Crime Lab served. In addition, he taught forensic science courses on the campus. A member of Christ Episcopal Church, he was a treasurer, lay reader, and vestryman.

Bob was a member of Midwest and Southwest Associations of Forensic Scientist, for which he attended meetings and presented papers of numerous regional meetings. As a member of International Electrophoresis Society and the International Society for Forensic Serology, he attended meetings in Copenhagen, Vienna and Athens. Through the years, he attended numerous sessions at the F.B.I. Academy in Quantico, Virginia. In 1989, he was there for four months, as a Visiting Scientist, working and learning in the early stages of

DNA analyses. He accepted early retirement in September 1992, and was proud that his family could attend the dinner honoring him in the Show-Me-Center.

Bob was a Civil War buff, enjoying visits to sites from that time and reading about the war. He enjoyed doing genealogy with his wife, and with her, wrote A LONGWELL-MONTGOMERY FAMILY HISTORY. He loved extensive world traveling and activities with his family, mystery novels, growing orchids, playing bridge, and dancing with his wife Barbara of 65 years. He was also a two time cancer survivor.

He is survived by his wife, Barbara Longwell of Cape Girardeau; two sons, Robert Alan (Laurie) Longwell of Union, Missouri and Michael Lee (Susan) Longwell of Lakeway, Texas; and numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents and a sisters, Julia Ann Longwell and Lorna Johnson

Visitation will be Friday, February 10th from 10-11 am at Ford & Sons Mt. Auburn Chapel in Cape Girardeau.

Funeral service will be Friday at 11 am at the funeral home with the Rev. Donny Ford officiating.

Entombment will be at Cape County Memorial Park Mausoleum in Cape Girardeau.

Memorial contributions may be given to Shriners Children's St. Louis Hospital.

Online condolences may be made at www.fordandsonsfuneralhome.com.

Ford & Sons Funeral Home - Mt. Auburn is in charge of arrangements.

Cemetery Details

Cape County Memorial Park Mausoleum

2315 Highway 61 N
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB 10. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM.

Ford and Sons Funeral Home

Funeral Service

FEB 10. 11:00 AM.

Ford and Sons Funeral Home

Tribute Wall

BM

“ I took care of bob at the chateau I will miss him he was so nice and kind

billy martin - February 18, 2023 at 06:52 PM

DB

“ Michael and family, I regret that I cannot be there today. However my thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. Bob was not only a good father, husband but was a leader both in the community and his field. His service to country, community and family will always be in our memories.

On a personal note, his amazing patience towards a son who would paint his car including tires with house paint shows another great quality your father held.

As always, I will carry found memories of you and both your mother and father forward. Godspeed to you, your friend always

David Barklage

David Barklage - February 10, 2023 at 09:23 AM

RH

“ Sorry to hear of Bob's passing. He was my down the street neighbor on Jonquil Street. I really didn't know Bob very well but I had a lot of respect for the man. His son Mike and me were friends in High School. My condolences to Mike and the Longwell family.

Rob Hale - February 09, 2023 at 07:58 PM